

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

DP congratulates new Aruba government

P H I L I P S B U R G - Democratic Party (DP) leader Sarah Wescot-Williams has congratulated the newly elected government in Aruba led by Mike Eman (AVP). The party captured eleven seats in the Friday elections. She said St. Maarten looked forward to continued support and cooperation the Aruba Government and people have had for the constitutional change process St. Maarten embarked on in June 2000. St. Maarten's people had voted in the June 2000 referendum for country status within the Dutch Kingdom, like Aruba attained after breaking with the Netherlands Antilles in 1980s.

Wescot-Williams urged the new government as well as the former MEP-led government (eight seats) and Democracia Real (one seat) to "work diligently" in the interest of Aruba's people. "The people have spoken and we wish the AVP Party and its leader Mr. Eman much wisdom and strength."

DP Island Councilman Roy Marlin expressed congratulations similar to those of his party leader. He added, "Aruba is coping with certain problems such as the recent closing of the oil refinery and I hope and pray that the incoming government can resolve this very important matter for Aruba and its people." □

8th Edition of the ARUBA MUSIC FESTIVAL

PAULINA RUBIO to perform on Aruba

ORANJESTAD - On October 9th, international music icon Paulina Rubio will perform. Rubio is one of the top-selling female Latin pop artists with over 20 million records sold worldwide.

Paulina, dubbed "La Chica Dorada" (The Golden Girl), is preparing to take the globe by storm yet again with the release of her ninth album, *Gran City Pop*, due out on June 23rd. Raised in Mexico, Los Angeles, and Spain, she began her wildly successful career at the young age of 10 with the Mexican girl group "Timbiriche," and thereafter decided to go her own way. Paulina's eponymous solo album shifted over 3 million records worldwide and garnered her a Grammy nomination for Best Latin Artist in addition to three

Latin Grammy nominations, as well as a Billboard award for Best Latin Album and two



Premio Lo Nuestro awards for Best Pop Album and Best Female Pop Star.

With this record, Paulina's remarkable sales yielded: Triple Platinum and Diamond sales in Columbia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Spain, and Italy.

Her album *Pau-Latina* further cemented her place as she became the highest selling female Latin artist of 2004. That year, Paulina won several Billboard, Premios Juventud and Premio Lo Nuestro awards and was the only Latina nominated at the 47th Grammy Awards.

The year after, Paulina became the first female host at the MTV Latin America Video Awards and was also invited to perform at the Nobel

Award Ceremony in 2006.

Paulina then released the most successful album-to-date of her career, *Ananda*, which entered the Billboard 200 chart at #31. The single "Ni Una Sola Palabra" also found a home on the charts and won a Latin Billboard Award.

The eagerly anticipated *Gran City Pop* already hit #1 as a pre-sale on iTunes Latino and consists of 10 tracks. Her latest single, "Causa y Efecto," debuted on television at the 2009 Billboard Latin Music Awards and was a radio hit upon its release, quickly climbing the charts.

In parallel, Paulina is launching "ORO," her first fragrance, in collaboration with Oracle Beauty Brands. □

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ATSA demonstrates its community spirit



ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) continues to demonstrate its community spirit by extending its support to valuable community organizations. In remaining active in the industry as well as the community, ATSA recently presented donations to different organizations, including Adopt-an-Addict, Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) and the Women's Club.

ATSA, which already has a long standing relationship with the Red Cross, reached out again to its volunteers, who assisted in aiding Ocean Dream cruise ship passengers, when they had been stuck in port. In order to demonstrate appreciation for the efforts they accomplished, volunteers were treated by ATSA to a sunset sail cruise.

ATSA further demonstrated its support of other organizations

that are committed to making contributions to the positive development of the Aruban community. After receiving a presentation provided by Audrey Croes-Lacle and Frank Tielman on the Adopt-an-Addict, program, ATSA took the initiative to provide its support in the rehabilitation of an addict over a two-year period. With its recent donation to ARA, ATSA established itself as a silver-level sponsor



for the second year in a row. ATSA also recently provided a donation to the Women's Club to assist the group on its awareness campaign in teaching school-age children the importance to "Refuse, Re-use, Reduce, Recycle and Reforest".

ATSA itself received an injection of funds with the annual contribution provided this year by "Aruba Experience". The attractive, individualized "Aruba Experience" island guides are found in each room of Aruba's timeshare resorts. A portion of advertising earnings goes directly to the association in helping to maintain its many worthwhile efforts. Aruba Experience Publisher Piet Janssen recently presented the check to the ATSA board.

In further bringing about positive change, ATSA will continue with several projects this year, among them is the island-wide review of timeshare properties that is being conducted by the Freeman Group. ATSA efforts, to ensure a quality vacation ownership experience and to strengthen Aruba's tourism, will continue to be led by board members and industry veterans, ATSA President Jan van Nes, Treasurer Andy Osbourne and Secretary Aisa Briesen.

Participating in ATSA include representatives from the timeshare properties of Marriott's Aruba Surf Club, Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Casa del Mar, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Aruba Beach Club, La Quinta, Paradise Beach Villas, Caribbean Palm Village, Amsterdam Manor, Divi Aruba Phoenix and Playa Linda Beach Resort.

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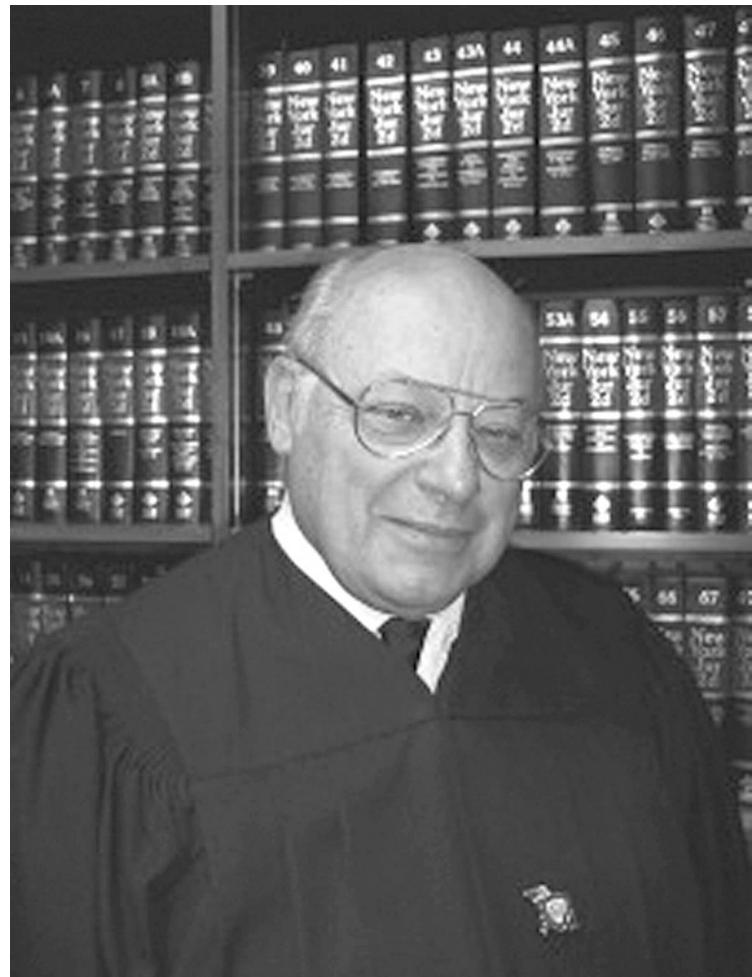


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Nassau Supreme Court judge retires, joins law firm



Nassau County Supreme Court Judge Edward McCabe, the former chief administrative judge in the county, is retiring Tuesday.

The 76-year-old judge is

joining the Uniondale law firm of Sahn Ward & Baker as of counsel starting Wednesday. A breakfast is being held at the Nassau County Supreme Court in Mineola Tuesday morning

to honor the outgoing justice. New York state law requires judges to retire at the age of 70, but they are allowed to apply for three two-year extensions. McCabe's final extension is due to expire at the end of the year, but he said he preferred to leave earlier.

"There is life after this," McCabe said in his near-empty office on Monday afternoon. "I am a very, very lucky person."

McCabe has been a judge in Nassau for the past 23 years. Prior to that, McCabe served as town attorney for North Hempstead, Nassau County Attorney and an assistant District Attorney in Nassau County.

He served as chief administrative judge from 1997 to 2003.

"Judge McCabe has left an indelible mark on the Nassau County Courts," said the Hon. Anthony Marano, administrative judge of Nassau County. "Throughout his tenure on the bench he has championed many causes that have furthered our system of

justice and is recognized as an independent judge with great integrity."

Marano followed McCabe as the chief administrative judge in Nassau.

McCabe said his retirement will include working a few days a week at Sahn Ward & Baker, as well as teaching a class at Nassau Community College twice a week. He also plans to travel to Aruba, on a Caribbean cruise, and to

Germany.

He said he gave Michael Sahn his first job as a deputy town attorney in North Hempstead and now Sahn is returning the favor.

"I don't know how much I can do after all these years," McCabe said. "I feel like the manager of a major league ball club. You know what the right play is, you just don't know if you can make it any more." □

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Loyal friends honored at the Aruba Beach Club Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Aruba Beach Club Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Aruba Beach Resort they call their home away from home. Christine Mann & Cynthia & Richard Kubert were honored as distinguished visitors after visiting Aruba for 10 years.

Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Izaira from the Aruba Beach Club □

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Aqua Grill earns the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence



PALM BEACH – The island's chic and hip seafood address is Aqua Grill in Palm Beach. Critically praised for its fresh-only philosophy and culinary diversity that brings

patrons both regional classic preparations, as well as an exciting contemporary flair to seafood cuisine, Aqua Grill recently earned the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence

for its impressive wine cellar of over 1000 bottles, with a selection from more than 100 different wines.

The elite few restaurants that qualify for this award must

meet a variety of standards, most important being their wine selection. Aqua Grill management carefully selects their wines with diversity—region- and grape-wise—in mind. Much time is spent researching the reputation of many vineyards, meeting with the restaurant's wine distributors, and then fine-tuning the list through staff wine tastings, current market trends, and global sales performance. The wines are stored behind a fourteen-foot tall glass wine wall that doubles as part

of the dynamic décor of the restaurant. The temperature-controlled wine cellar has a capacity to hold over 1000 viewed bottles, and all red wines are stored room temperature (70°), while white wines are stored at 50°. Aqua Grill is open nightly. For more information and to make reservations call 586-5900. Pictured here is the dining room's glass wine vault storing the selections that helped earn Aqua Grill its Wine Spectator Award of Excellence. □



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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Train Your Brain and Transform Your Life

The Universe reflects your energy back to you. To change your life, change your energy. To change your energy, change your perspective. Your attitudes about the details of your life determine the tone of your daily existence. Your attitudes generate your emotions, which are reflected back to you in your life.

An attitude is an automatic emotional reaction. Think of a person or situation that gives you bad feelings, or imagine something that you don't like to do. Feel the automatic emotional

response within your body. You might get angry or feel defeated. There is a definite change within your Being, when a bad attitude takes over.

In the moment that you feel the attitude overcome your body, snap yourself out of it by introducing something foreign and unexpected. Imagine doing something like touching your nose and letting out a beep, or think of something that makes you laugh.

The thought will snap your mind out of the automatic attitude and give you a chuckle. You replace the

bad association with a good attitude.

There is a positive association for everything you don't like in your life. If you have an abusive partner or boss, think of how goofy they are, taking themselves so seriously. Have compassion for them because they're not very happy. If they seek to control you, they probably feel like they don't have any control over their lives. If you have a physical challenge, know that it gives you a unique perspective that will help others. You can blaze the trail for others to follow. Your

personal accomplishments will inspire all who watch in amazement as you defy common limitations.

If you think of money as something that's hard to get, or a troublesome pain to deal with, your bad associations will block money from your life. If you see money as your best friend who will do anything for you, you will love working for it, and organizing it will be like helping your best friends clean up their lives.

technique, you never have to dislike what you're doing again. Just change your association. Over time, the positive will become natural, and you'll laugh at your old ways. Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the

Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

Change your attitude and you will liberate yourself from three dimensions. This is a big key in removing your emotions from the forces of three dimensional illusion, while still in your body.

When you consistently shock your mind out of the pattern and replace the association with something positive, you will train your brain to stay out of negative frequencies. With a positive association, you won't mind taking care of your necessary daily responsibilities because you now see the good in your actions.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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and a salad for \$19.95. For entertainment Casa Tua Barcelona offers a Live Flamenco Show on Friday Nights while you can dance on the rhythms of salsa & bolero performed by a live band on

Saturday Nights!

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their

dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

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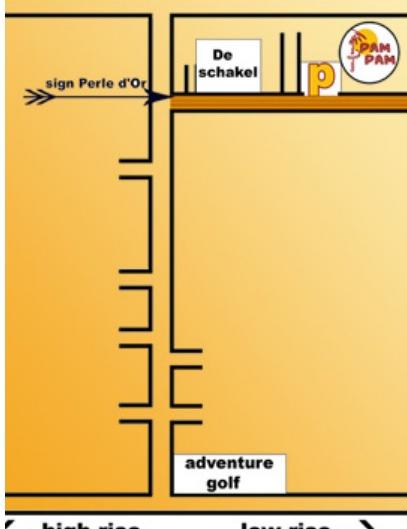


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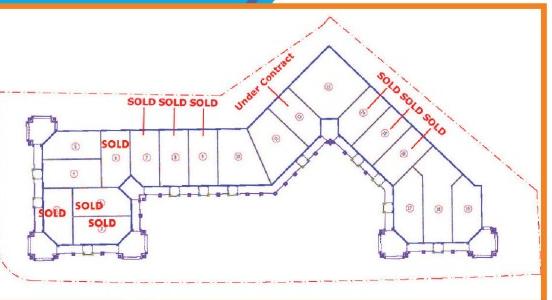
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Record Number of Pros Confirmed for UltimateBet's Aruba Poker Classic

18 of the World's Top Poker Players Have Confirmed Their Seat in the Aruba Poker Classic Online Poker Tournament

MIAMI, FL -- With just days before the first hand of the 2009 Aruba Poker Classic is dealt, UltimateBet today announced that a record number of poker professionals will be playing in this year's Main Event in Aruba. In addition to the 16 pros who represent UltimateBet on Team UB, the popular island tournament continues to attract pros from outside of UltimateBet.

"This is one of my all-time favorite poker tournaments," said Annie Duke, UltimateBet's Cardroom Consultant and member of Team UB. "While the UB community is famous for gathering together at all sorts of other poker tournaments like the WSOP, Aruba is all about celebrating the successes of UltimateBet's online poker players. I can't wait to meet the people I play against online, party with old friends on the beach and make some new ones."

Over the last year, UltimateBet has secured some of the world's most respected poker players for its popular Team UB. To date, the group of online poker pros made up of those who have achieved incredible success online and in land-based events has skyrocketed to 16.

Each member of the group has confirmed their attendance in the 2009 Aruba Poker Classic.

Slated to play are Phil Hellmuth, Annie Duke, Joe Sebek, Adam Levy, Billy Kopp, Bryan Devonshire, Brandon Cantu, Debo34, Hollywood Dave, Liv Boeree, Matt Graham, Michael Binger, P0ker H0, Scott Ian, Shawn Rice and Tiffany Michelle.

Also confirmed to play in the event are professional poker players Lacey Jones and Matt Vengrin, who both play on the CEREUS Poker Network. While the expanded list of pros from outside of the CEREUS Poker Network hasn't been reported, the Aruba Poker Classic has attracted some big name poker players in past years, including Mike Matusow, Evelyn Ng, and Johan Storakers.

The Aruba Poker Classic, UltimateBet's signature island poker tournament, heads into its 8th year at the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino.

The weeklong poker experience runs from October 3rd through 10th and features a multi-million dollar prize pool.

Last year's Main Event was won by Matt Brady of Havertown, PA, who took home \$1 million for his victory. It's rumored that the poker champion will show up to defend his title.

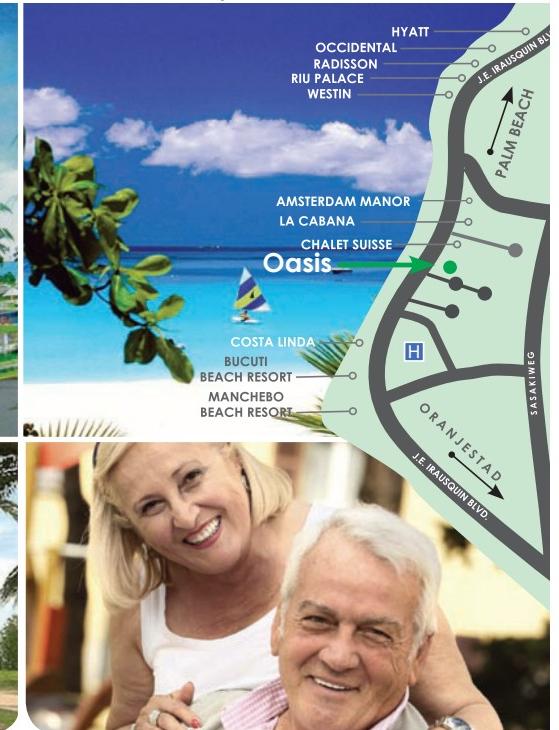
Players can still secure a \$5,500 seat through an online satellite or buy directly into the event right up until the first hand is dealt. For more information on the 2009 Aruba Poker Classic, visit UltimateBet.com.

About UltimateBet

Designed with the assistance of the best poker players in the world -- Phil Hellmuth and Annie Duke -- UltimateBet provides the best poker games available on the net through the CEREUS poker network. Players can download the free online poker software to their Mac or PC, play in free ring games and tournaments and get tips from the pros to learn the sport or to enhance their playing strategy. □

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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

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With a toes-in-the-sand ceremony on Marriott's Beach

Thomas & Reva celebrate love with marriage



PALM BEACH - Thomas H. Wilson and Reva Baumann Mishkin were married in Aruba's Historic Civil house yesterday, September 29, 2009. Tom and Reva have known each other for so many years, but reunited to become husband and wife yesterday with an official civil ceremony, then again on the beach in Aruba on the Aruba Marriott's spectacular beach. Tom

completely surprised Riva with the proposal and when she said yes, he quickly with the help of friends and the Aruba Marriott Resort, coordinated a magical ceremony on the beach officiated by Rev. Geoffrey J. R. Banfield of the Universal Ministries. Congratulations to Thomas and Reva from Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Enjoying Aruba for the second time!

Maritza & John Rivera celebrate second honeymoon



ORANJESTAD - Mr. & Mrs. John & Maritza Rivera from Orlando, Florida are pictured enjoying their second honeymoon on Aruba.

The Riveras are still newlyweds after 5 years of marriage and celebrating at all of Aruba's landmarks on Aruba. John and Maritza



were married and celebrated their honeymoon on Aruba 5 years ago and used their own camera for their memories. Unfortunately in transit home, the photos were permanently deleted from their camera to their great dismay. They decided to revisit their memories with a private renewal of vows, but this

time with a professional photographer to insure memories of a lifetime. John and Maritza love the island of Aruba and all of the people they met; Maritza was very impressed with the real estate on the island as she represents Sunstar Reality out of Orlando, Florida. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



George: DP about egos and power, not people

PHILIPSBURG--The opposition Democratic Party (DP) is making good on its promise to frustrate and attempt to hinder the National Alliance (NA)-led government from working in the interest of the people, and to delay the constitutional change process,

NA Island Councilman George Pantophlet said Monday. "It is so clear that even a blind man can see that the Democratic Party is not about the people or the country, but about egos and power." He stated that the opposition party was trying to set up

Roy: Central Govt, NA not moving constitutional train

PHILIPSBURG--The National Alliance (NA)-led Island Government and the Central Government it supports have not moved the constitutional train further since taking office on June 8, but are contributing to a stalling of the process by not living up to agreements essential to setting the date for the establishment of Country St. Maarten, says opposition Democratic Party (DP) Island Councilman Roy Marlin.

Speaking at a party press conference Monday, Marlin criticised NA and its Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan. He stated that neither the party nor the minister had done much in the past four years, but had instead flowed with the achievements of the former DP government.

With the change of government, the danger of the constitutional process being delayed has been magnified even more because of the NA/Heyliger coalition's lack of commitment to comply with some agreements already made: the timely preparation of the budget 2010, compliance with submitting annual accounts and corporate governance, Marlin said.

"The things which were done on a local level are part of the political agreements made with the Dutch Government which were accomplished because locally the DP believes in the process. We showed that we lived up to all our political agreements made locally."

Despite all the preparation, the Dutch Government and primarily the Second Chamber of Parliament still claim St. Maarten is not ready, the councilman said. He continued: "We remain concerned about statements made on St. Maarten's position on this matter and that St. Maarten does not end up with a different constitutional status than Curaçao because of weakness displayed while looking for alternatives to resolve the myth coming from the Second Chamber members that St. Maarten is not ready."

DP believes the idea should still be championed to eliminate the Antillean Parliament as of the date for the transition to country status for St. Maarten, and legislation should be enacted by the Central Government and the Kingdom Government before the elections of January 2010 to make this a reality.

More and more delays are seen from the Central Government in transferring tasks to the island, he said. "Every time you have political consultations the goalposts get moved farther back because agreed-on dates for transfer of tasks are not reached. The fact is, not reaching these goals is not at all the fault of St. Maarten, but a lack of willingness by the Central Government to move things forward."

Agreements were made in the political consultation meeting of November 2008 to transfer Central Government tasks to the islands in two phases: on July 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009. Those dates were subsequently moved to October 1 and December 31. "We have not seen any serious preparations for the transfer of tasks on the horizon which will take place to meet the December 31 deadline, much less the October 1 deadline which is just two days away."

Marlin said, "It goes to show that the Central Government, supported by the National Alliance for the past four years, was and is not serious about dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles." □

government by pretending not to be fully aware of the Rules of Order on the convening of meetings.

One indication of this was that the party seemed to purposely wait until commissioners or key civil servants were off-island to request Island Council or other meetings, or to make alternative suggestions for the timeline.

DP had requested an Island Council meeting on the financial and economic situation of St. Maarten in the second week of this month, soon after members had learnt that Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman and Acting Head of Resources Hiro Shigemoto were on a working visit to the Netherlands, Pantophlet explained in a press statement. This meeting was adjourned until Friday, October 2.

DP submitted a request for a Central Committee meeting

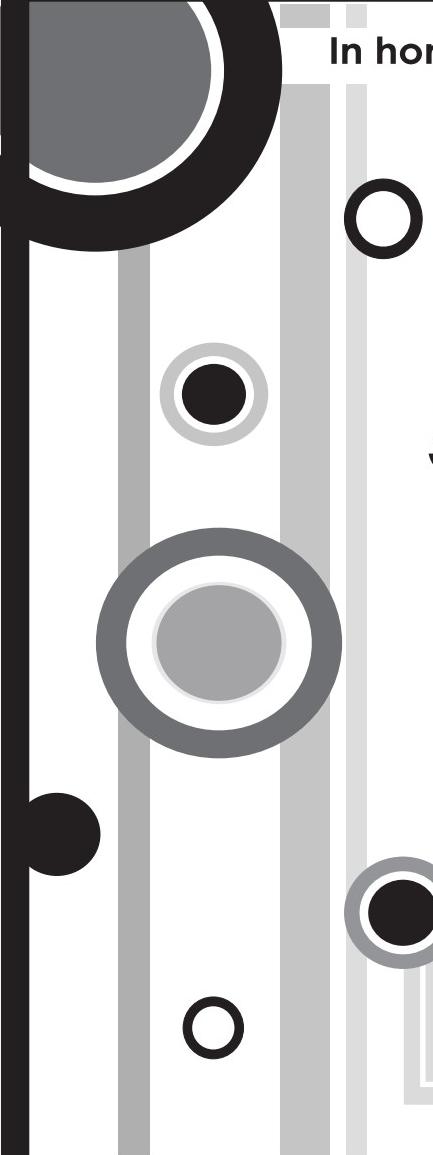
to discuss implementation of the new rules on corporate governance, operations and investments of the respective companies, the status of their annual accounts, their performance during 2008-2009 and prospects for 2010. In this letter, the party suggested this meeting or series of meetings, as the letter pointed out, be convened on Friday, October 2.

This letter, dated September 22, was received by Central Committee Chairman Pantophlet on September 24. Pantophlet said DP had requested this meeting "knowing very well that the Island Council meeting ... would be continued on that same date. The fact that the DP suggests having the meetings scheduled over numerous days already indicates what their purpose is: keep the NA-led government busy answering questions to which DP already

well knows or should know the answers."

Further, DP's suggestion that the meeting(s) start outside of the legal timeframe of seven days, which ends in October, "proves that they are either attempting to set up the NA-led government or they are not aware of the Rules of Order." In either case, the very fact that the DP Island Council members suggested October 2 "shows their intent and disregard for the civil servants and the people of St. Maarten in general. Some might call this good politics, but I don't have a name for it."

Aside from the continuation of the Island Council meeting, Commissioners William Marlin and Xavier Blackman, along with advisors, will return Thursday morning from the Kingdom Political Steering Group meeting in Curaçao, leaving limited time to prepare for other meetings. □



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9 in 10 high schoolers short on fruits, veggies

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — Less than 10 percent of U.S. high school students are eating the combined recommended daily amount of fruits and vegetables, a finding that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called "poor" in a report Tuesday.

The report based on 2007 data found that only 13 percent of U.S. high school students get at least three servings of vegetables a day and just 32 percent get two servings of fruit. Less than 1 in 10 get enough of both

combined.

Some states — including Arkansas and North Carolina — were significantly below those averages. But some New England states, particularly Vermont, were notably better.

The CDC said the report was the first to give such detailed information on adolescents' fruit and vegetable consumption. The information comes from a national survey of about 100,000 high school students in 2007.

CDC officials said the findings indicate a disheartening gap between

how people should be eating and what they're actually doing in an era of rampant obesity.

Federal nutrition goals for 2010 call for at least 75 percent of Americans to eat two servings of fruit each day and at least 50 percent to eat three vegetable servings.

"This is a call for states, communities, schools and families to support increased fruit and vegetable consumption," said Heidi Blanck, a CDC senior scientist who worked on the report.

The CDC also released

data on a survey of adults.

It found fruit and vegetable consumption was basically unchanged from when a similar survey was done in 2005: About 27 percent got at least three servings of vegetables a day, and 33 percent got two servings of fruit.

People who participated in the survey were asked, essentially, how many times a day they had fruit or vegetables. Fruit juice counted but pieces of fruit are considered preferable, because they're more filling alternatives to fatty, processed snacks, Blanck

said.

Vermont and other states that had higher rates of fruit and vegetable consumption also have more farmers markets per 100,000 people than the national average. And schools in those states were more likely to stock pieces of fruit in vending machines or at snack shops, Blanck said.

The report did not have numbers for every state. For twelve of them, high schooler survey samples were not considered large enough to provide a statistically reliable number. □



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No Osteoarthritis Seen in Obese Mice Without Leptin

The appetite-regulating hormone leptin may contribute to osteoarthritis in obese people, according to a new study that suggests that skeletal wear and tear caused by excess weight isn't the only cause of the painful and debilitating condition.

Duke University researchers found that extremely obese mice didn't develop osteoarthritis if their bodies didn't have leptin.

In fact, joints in obese mice without leptin appeared healthier than those in normal mice.

The study appears in the Sept. 29 issue of the journal *Arthritis & Rheumatism*.

This is the first time that leptin has been identified as a "metabolic link" between obesity and altered cartilage metabolism in joints, according to a university news

release.

"Although there was some earlier evidence that leptin might be involved in the arthritis disease process, we didn't think that there would be no arthritis at all" in the obese mice without leptin, said Farshid Guilak, director of orthopedic research in the Duke Department of Surgery, in the news release.

Leptin influences many osteoarthritis-related factors, such as body weight, inflammation and bone metabolism.

"With obesity and osteoarthritis, there are good similarities between humans and mice," Guilak said. "If we can find a pathway that links a high-fat diet with arthritis, then we can try to identify and block the inflammatory mediators that are linked with the dietary fat." □

HEALTH Aruba TODAY

By: Dr Carlos Viana

If you're 35 to 40, even if you think you are as fit as ever, you have probably begun losing muscle, the tissue that provides your strength and mobility. Slow, inevitable muscle wasting occurs even in healthy individuals who engage in regular aerobic exercise, but it usually goes unnoticed for decades. In fact, the body hides its loss by subtly padding affected areas with extra fat. So maintaining your weight perfectly over time does not mean muscles remain the same.

For older individuals, studies indicate that while thinning bones render the elderly vulnerable to fractures, it's the unsteadiness caused by muscle wasting that leads to falls. Muscle loss can not only rob aging adults of their independence by making walking, stair climbing and getting in and out of chairs difficult, but this forced sedentary lifestyle is unhealthy.

Muscles should be about half of a person's lean body weight. After age 30 men and women start losing muscle. If you are a healthy person in your seventies, you're down about 20 percent in muscle from where you were at age 30. For obese individuals, the percentage could be higher. Menopause causes women to lose even more muscle. Therefore age-related drops in growth hormone, estrogen, and other hormones may play a big role in muscle

Continuing Strong

loss. Many women and men also became less active as they age, another factor contributing to muscle loss.

Muscle loss is accepted as a universal symptom of aging. Muscle loss should instead be considered a disease, one that can be prevented and treated. Exercise that focuses on resistance training of the arms and legs goes a long way in strengthening weak muscles. Using gradually increasing weights or other resistance training like elastic bands or working out in water, safely challenges muscles to become stronger. Older people who have done weight lifting over the last 15 to 20 years will have muscles the same size as someone who is 25 and sedentary. That includes many young people today.

According to studies, it's never too late to start that muscle training. In one 10-week study of 100 nursing home residents age 72 – 98, participants doubled the strength of their muscles and increased their stair-climbing power by 28% when they exercised with resistance training three times a week. Moreover, this training offers payoffs that go well beyond muscles in the year-long study women increased bone density over the course of their training, while those who did not participate lost bone.

Our bodies need a lot of protein to develop and

maintain muscle. Protein intake required for the average person who performs a light amount of exercise is approximately 1 gram of protein per kilo of body weight. Please keep in mind that the most concentrated source of protein is meat, but there are specific meats that do well with specific blood types. Blood type O and B do well with beef, most fish and some chicken, types A do better with fish, soy and a little chicken or turkey, while good protein choices for AB's includes turkey, fish and soy products, never chicken.

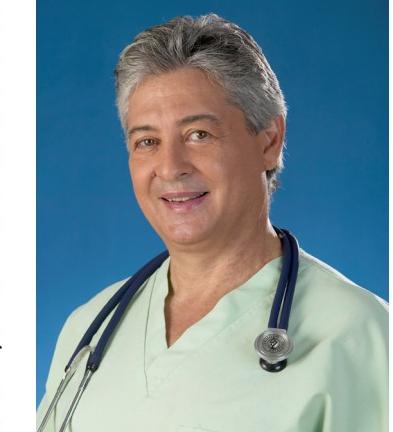
For older individuals who are not eating sufficient amounts of good protein, I prescribe protein supplementation like those used by bodybuilders. Not all protein powders are the same. Whey powders are milk based and should be used by only blood type AB or B. Soy protein powders are better for type O and A.

As a clinical nutritionist, besides working with the individual to prepare a personal diet plan, I recommend people wanting to build healthy muscle supplement with a good source of Brewer's Yeast. Brewer's yeast is a powerful health source of B-vitamins, amino acids, proteins, minerals, enzymes and nucleic acids. Everything needed to build healthy muscle. Additionally, supplementation of brewers

yeast is helpful in reducing bad cholesterol and elevating high density lipo-proteins or good cholesterol (HDL) and is rich in GTF, the Glucose Tolerance Factor nutrient chromium, and has immune enhancing properties.

Muscle stiffness or pain often results from physical exertion at any age. Instead of pain medication I always do an analysis with blood or other test to check the health of the person and then make sure they are drinking sufficient amounts of water. We then recommend acupuncture treatments to relieve stress and relax muscles naturally. Supplementation with selenium and Vitamin E. Selenium helps to maintain good health and protect the integrity of muscle cells. Both vitamin E and selenium are important antioxidants, working to scavenge free radicals that damage muscle cells under stress. If these nutrients are deficient, supplementation may help to prevent muscle soreness.

Get The Point! Exercise can be done at any age. Some private insurance providers are even paying for gym memberships for seniors as part of their preventative health package. Weight bearing exercise has a profound effect on muscle growth. However, exercise is only part of a healthy plan. The right kind of food and correct use of supplements for your metabolic type is important for muscle growth



and strength. If you learn how to keep your muscles strong, they will help protect you from falling and provide you continuing strength for your life. Want more advice? Call to make an appointment so we can help you stay strong.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information:

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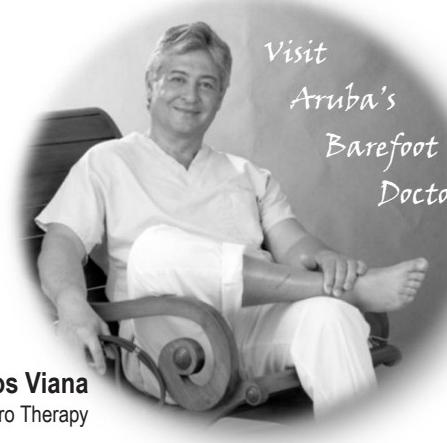
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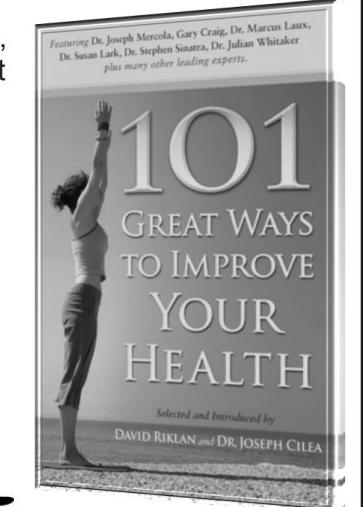
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Researchers: Champagne's aroma comes from bubbles



Champagne bubbles are seen in this undated handout photo.

REUTERS/Alain Cornu/
collection CIVC/Handout

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID,
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Don Ho was right. It is the tiny bubbles. A team of researchers — in Europe not surprisingly

— found that Champagne's bursting bubbles not only tickle the nose, they create a mist that wafts the aroma to the drinker.

"I love the idea that such a wonderful and subtle mechanism acts right under our nose during Champagne tasting. In a single Champagne glass, there is as much food for the mind as pleasure for your senses," said researcher Gerard Liger-Belair of the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne in France.

In the Hawaiian singer's 1966 hit, Don Ho sings, "Tiny Bubbles, In the wine, Make me happy, Make me feel fine."

Now science is looking at the

source of those feelings. Liger-Belair and his colleagues used high-resolution mass spectrometry to study the chemicals in Champagne and sparkling wines and in the bubbles and the mist they produce.

While the aromas rising from sparkling wines are well known, the study is the most detailed look at how they are get there, the researchers said. They discovered that some of the chemicals that impart the special toasty, fruity aromas to the beverage are captured by the bubbles and brought to the surface in higher concentrations than in the wine itself, they report in Tuesday's edition of

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

It's sort of like how the bursting of bubbles at the sea surface imparts that special oceanic scent to the nearby air, Liger-Belair explained.

"Actually, bubbles trapped by the sea breakers action considerably increase exchange surfaces between the sea bulk and the atmosphere," he said.

The bubbles drag chemicals along their way through the liquid to the sea surface and finally burst and eject aerosol droplets into the atmosphere.

"Air bubbles trapped during rough sea conditions were found to increase specific

organic concentrations in marine aerosols by several orders of magnitude compared with those found in the liquid," he said.

So if the same thing is happening to sparkling wines, does that mean champagne smells better than it tastes?

Liger-Belair said the scientists were tempted to reach that conclusion, but that he is a physicist and co-lead author Philippe Schmitt-Kopplin of the Institute for Ecological Chemistry and Molecular BioGeochemistry in Neuherberg, Germany, is a chemist; they are not experts in the science of smell and taste, he said. □

Mighty T. rex Killed by Lowly Parasite, Study Suggests

Charles Q. Choi

The famous dinosaur known as Sue — the largest, most complete and best preserved T. rex specimen ever found — might have been killed by a disease that afflicts birds even today, scientists now suggest.

The remains of Sue, a star attraction of the Field Museum in Chicago, possess holes in her jaw that some believed were battle scars, the result of bloody combat with another dinosaur, possibly another T. rex.

Now researchers suggest these scars did not result from a clash of titans, but rather from a lowly parasite. The infection in Sue's throat and mouth may have been so severe that the 42-foot-long, 7-ton dinosaur starved to death.

The ailment the scientists propose felled Sue and other T. rexes is trichomonosis, also known as trichomoniasis. In birds, the disease is caused by Trichomonas gallinae, a single-celled protozoan. Although some birds, such as pigeons, commonly host the parasite but suffer few ill effects, in birds of prey such as falcons and hawks, the germ causes a pattern of serious lesions in the lower beak that closely matches the holes in the jaws of Sue and

occurs in the same anatomical location.

"It's ironic to think that an animal as mighty as 'Sue' probably died as a result of a parasitic infection. I'll never look at a feral pigeon the same way again," said researcher Steven Salisbury at the University of Queensland in Australia.

The researchers investigated the jaws of Sue and 60 other tyrannosaur specimens. Nearly 15 percent of them possessed lesions that had previously been attributed to bite wounds or, possibly, a bacterial infection. These holes were roughly 0.2 to more than 1 inch wide (0.5 to more than 2.5 cm), extending through roughly a half-inch (1 cm) of bone.

The scars of combat among tyrannosaurs and other dinosaurs are not uncommon, but differ notably from trichomonosis lesions, explained researcher Ewan Wolff, a vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. The holes the parasite makes are often neat and have relatively smooth edges, while bite marks are often messy, scarring and puncturing bone.

Tyrannosaurs are known to have fought amongst themselves and sometimes even ate one another. The parasite may have been passed through face-biting

or cannibalism.

"We don't think it is a coincidence that a significant number of adult tyrannosaur specimens show both face-biting marks and evidence of a trichomonosis-like disease," Salisbury said. "Previous studies have shown that up to 60 percent of tyrannosaur specimens display evidence of face-biting."

Wolff noted there is no known evidence of trichomonosis in other dinosaurs.

"This leads us to suspect that tyrannosaurs might have been the source of the disease and its transmission in its environment," Wolff explained.

For the disease to cause such lesions in the jaws of Sue and other tyrannosaurs, it would have had to be at an advanced stage.

"The lesions we observe on Sue suggest a very advanced stage of the disease and may even have been the cause of her demise," Wolff said.

The parasite typically concentrates in the back of the throat in birds of prey, where it leads to masses of dying tissue.

"As the lesions grow, the animal has trouble swallowing food and may eventually starve to death," Salisbury said. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks waver on housing, consumer confidence data



In this Sept. 21, 2009 photo, pedestrians walk by the window display at an Old Navy store in downtown Chicago. Consumers' confidence in the economy falls in September as Americans' worries about job security offset any enthusiasm about the rally in the stock market.

(AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The latest batch of mixed economic data is making it difficult for stocks to find direction.

Stocks wavered in a narrow range in early afternoon trading Tuesday after reports showing a larger-than-expected decline in consumer confidence and a third straight monthly increase in home prices.

The back-and-forth trading came after a big jump in stocks on Monday that broke a three-day streak of losses triggered by disappointing economic data.

Recent mixed signals on the economy have many investors believing that any recovery will be fitful at best. With the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index up 57.1 percent since hitting a 12-year low in March, analysts say investors are using the mixed data as an excuse to sell some of their holdings.

"The market's a little skittish," said Howard Ward, portfolio manager at GAMCO Growth Fund, whose portfolio is concentrated in areas most sensitive to the economy, including technology, energy

and financial stocks. "The data is inconsistent, so there will be the occasional economic release that is going to trigger some selling because stocks are up a lot."

Investors were disappointed that the Conference Board's consumer confidence index fell to 53.1 in September. That was down from 54.5 in August and much lower than the reading of 57 that economists had been expecting.

The private research group attributed the decline to concerns about the labor market, saying consumers are still worried about losing their jobs. Consumer confidence has been a key focus for the stock market in recent months, and many analysts say a true turnaround in the economy can't occur until consumers start spending again and employers create more jobs.

The consumer confidence data, however, was tempered by an increase in home prices, the latest encouraging sign for the troubled housing sector. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index of 20 major cities showed home prices rising 1.2 percent in July from June, marking the third

straight month of increases. The Dow Jones industrials fell 4.98, or 0.1 percent, to 9,784.38. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.65, or 0.2 percent, to 1,064.63, and the Nasdaq composite index slipped 0.73, or 0.03 percent, to 2,130.01.

About four stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 576.7 million shares, compared with 457.6 million shares traded at the same time on Monday.

In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 0.47, or 0.1 percent, to 613.69.

Stocks jumped Monday as news of large takeovers by Xerox Corp. and Abbott Laboratories brought hope that corporate dealmaking could be making a comeback. That would be a big positive not only for the economy but also for the stock market as investors try to figure out which companies could become acquisition targets. Analysts have been saying that some pullback in stocks is healthy considering how far and how fast the market has risen.

But so far, any breaks in the advance have been fairly mild and brief, as investors who don't want to miss an opportunity to join in the market's climb higher keep the momentum going.

Still, the market could sell off more if reports continue to fall short of expectations. Despite better signs on manufacturing and home sales, the labor market remains beaten down. Investors will get the latest news on employment Friday when the Labor Department releases its monthly jobs report, one of the most closely watched economic reports on the calendar. □



FILE - In this Aug. 27, 2009 file photo, FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair speaks to the press at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. headquarters in Washington. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. is expected to take the unprecedented step of collecting banks' regular premiums early to inject cash into the shrinking deposit insurance fund.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, file)

FDIC says bank failures to cost around \$100B

By MARCY GORDON,
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — Regulators expect the cost of bank failures to grow to about \$100 billion over the next four years — up from an earlier estimate of \$70 billion. Faced with that sobering news, they voted Tuesday to require banks to prepay \$45 billion in premiums to replenish an insurance fund that will start running dry on Wednesday.

The proposal by the board of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to require early payments of premiums for 2010-2012 could take effect after a 30-day public comment period.

The FDIC is fully backed by the government, which means depositors' money is guaranteed up to \$250,000 per account. But it would be the first time the agency has required prepaid insurance fees.

"I do think this is a good balance," FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair said. The plan requires the banking industry "to step up" while spreading the financial hit to banks over a number of years, she said.

An insurance payment by the industry of \$45 billion "is not going to constrain lending," she said.

The insurance fund has been sapped by billions from a rash of bank failures that began in mid-2008. The banking industry prefers the prepaid premiums over a special emergency fee — which would be the second this year.

Without additional special fees or increases in regular premiums, the insurance fund — at \$10.4 billion at the end of June — will become "significantly negative" next year and could remain in deficit until 2013, the FDIC is now projecting.

Ninety-five banks have failed so far this year as losses have mounted on commercial real estate and other soured loans amid the most severe financial climate in decades. That has cost the fund about \$25 billion, the FDIC said Tuesday. The \$10.4 billion already was the fund's lowest point since 1992, at the height of the savings-and-loan crisis. That is equivalent to 0.22 percent of insured deposits, below a congressionally mandated minimum of 1.15 percent. □

Charity auction nets \$1.1 million for AIDS



Janet Jackson during the auction for the amfAR charity dinner during the fashion week in Milan, Italy, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

**By COLLEEN BARRY,
Associated Press Writer**

MILAN — Crystal-studded boots that Michael Jackson intended to wear on his planned comeback tour fetched \$14,650 at a celebrity fundraiser chaired by his sister, Janet.

The charity event, held on the sidelines of Milan Fashion Week, attracted such fashion luminaries as Donatella Versace and model Linda Evangelista, as well as rapper and producer Kanye West.

Organizers say the event late Monday netted a total of \$1.1 million (\$1,100) for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), a nonprofit organization that supports HIV/AIDS research.

The event included a charity dinner in a central Milan palace and continued into the early hours of Tuesday with French DJ Bob Sinclar serving his famous mixes on an upstairs dance floor.

"I'd just like to thank everyone here in the global fashion community who've done so much to help amfAR and to support HIV/AIDS research," Ms. Jackson told celebrity diners, who paid anywhere from \$2,200 to \$11,500 apiece to attend the dinner. "When this terrible pandemic began everyone ... who was infected died of AIDS. Today with your help millions of people are living with HIV."

She remembered the 5,000 who die of the disease every day.

Evangelista recalled the death of her first booking agent due to AIDS in the early days of the epidemic. "Those were desperate times for so many of us. I watched him die and helped bury him, not understanding any of it," Evangelista said. "The fashion industry was especially hard hit by AIDS."

But amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost celebrated the first "flicker of hope" that the AIDS epidemic may one day be contained, the news last week that a two-vaccine combination tested in Thailand had cut the risk of being infected

with HIV by one-third. Researchers say the results are not good enough for immediate use, but the results were widely viewed in the AIDS prevention and research camps as a hopeful sign.

"That, my friends, is the power of research," Frost said. "So believe me when I tell you, there is a way out. We believe with the right investment, we can bring this epidemic to an end in our lifetime."

During the auction, Sudanese model Alex Wek helped stir interest in the Giuseppe Zanotti-designed boots that featured 3,000 multicolored Swarovski beads, which Jackson planned to wear on the opening night of his comeback.

"Growing up in southern Sudan, I did not know a lot of pop stars. But Michael did touch a lot of people," she said in tribute to the singer, who died in June before his much-anticipated comeback could begin.

A custom black leather jacket designed by the Canadian twin designers Dean and Dan Caten of the DSquared2 label set off a bidding war between rapper West and Diesel designer Renzo Rosso. Rosso prevailed with a bid of \$52,740, the highest price paid for any of the auctioned items.

Model Noemie Lenoir, who flew in from New York for the event, was supposed to auction off a chance to sail aboard the yacht "Born for Sports" as it attempts to break the trans-Mediterranean record from Marseilles to Carthage in Tunisia. Instead, she improvised an auction of an evening out in her company.

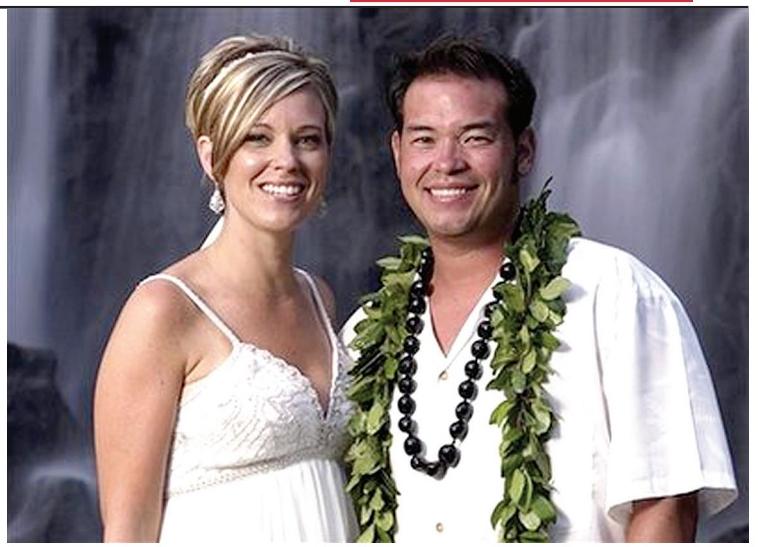
"Come on, cheap people, more money," she urged, as the bidding reached the winning level of \$16,115.

The yacht-racing experience later went for \$26,370. The auction — which among the other items included a Fendi bicycle with GPS and a leather-encased bike chain that earned \$23,440 and a private DJ lesson with Bob Sinclar that brought in \$41,000 — netted a total of \$1,100, or \$228,000. □



FILE - In this March 18, 2006 photo, celebrity disc jockey Adam Goldstein, also known as DJ AM, spins records at the Moody Blues clothing store opening in Scottsdale, Ariz. .

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg, file)



FILE - This image released by TLC, shows Jon Gosselin, right, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series 'Jon & Kate Plus 8,' in Hawaii.

(AP Photo/TLC, Mark Arbeit)

TLC's 'Jon & Kate' is soon to be 'Kate Plus Eight'

**By FRAZIER MOORE,
AP Television Writer**

NEW YORK — "Jon & Kate Plus 8" will soon be simply "Kate Plus Eight."

That's the word from the TLC network, who announced Tuesday that its hit reality show is adapting to changes in the Gosselin household, which has been disrupted by the split up of Kate and Jon.

The renamed "Kate Plus Eight," which begins Nov. 2, will continue to chronicle the lives of the Gosselin kids (5-year-old sextuplets and 8-year-old twins) but will also focus on Kate's role as a single mother.

"It's not a huge shift, but it's reflective of where the show was already going," said Eileen O'Neill, TLC's president and general manager.

"Jon's going to be involved in the show," she said, adding that he will be seen less often than before. TLC retains an exclusive arrangement with him, as well as the rest of the family, O'Neill said.

The couple made their separation official on a "Jon & Kate" episode that aired in June and was seen by 10.6 million viewers.

The rupture came after weeks of tabloid reports of marital strains and infidelities, which both spouses denied. On the show, the parental co-stars barely spoke to each other. □

DJ AM's death ruled accidental drug overdose

**By COLLEEN LONG,
Associated Press Writer**

NEW YORK — DJ AM died accidentally from a lethal cocktail of prescription drugs and cocaine, the medical examiner's office ruled Tuesday. The toxicology report showed the 36-year-old had in his system cocaine, OxyContin, Hydrocodone or Vicodin, antianxiety drugs Xanax and Ativan, Klonopin which also controls anger, Benadryl, and Levamisole, a drug apparently used to cut cocaine. The cause of death was acute intoxication due to the combined effects of the drugs, the medical examiner's office said. The dosage of each drug was not released.

The celebrity, whose real name was Adam Goldstein, had openly discussed past addictions to crack cocaine, Ecstasy and other drugs. He was found Aug. 28 in his apartment in New York City's trendy SoHo neighborhood after a friend called 911. Paramedics had to break down the door before they found him, shirtless and wearing sweat pants, in his bed around 5:20 p.m. Six pills were found in his stomach and a pill in his throat when he was found dead in his apartment. The pill in his throat appeared to be OxyContin. A crack pipe and prescription pill bottles were discovered there. □



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Wednesday, September 30, 2009



Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., right, talks with Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., left, as Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.V., sits in the middle during the markup of health care legislation, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)
See Page B5

Obama to honor India with his first state dinner

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — And the first state dinner of President Barack Obama's administration goes to ... India.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is coming to America for a state visit Nov. 24, just before Thanksgiving. Such visits include an elaborate arrival ceremony on the White House South Lawn, one-on-one time with the president and, in the evening, a state dinner.

It's a plum presidential nod of recognition for the world's largest democracy and most stable U.S. ally in a hostile corner of the world. But why India first?

It was just four years ago that President George W. Bush and Singh raised their glasses and toasted the U.S.-India relationship at the start of a July 2005 state dinner.

Indian officials, however, have watched warily since then as the U.S. has become more engaged with its archrival, Pakistan, focusing on greater military



FILE - In this May 19, 2003 file photo, President Bush, center, delivers opening remarks before the toast for Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during the start of the State Dinner in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington. And the first state dinner of President Barack Obama's administration goes to ... India. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is coming to America for a state visit Nov. 24, just before Thanksgiving. Such visits include a state dinner, one-on-one time with the president and an elaborate arrival ceremony on the White House South Lawn.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

cooperation in dealing with Islamist extremists there and in neighboring Afghanistan. Honoring Singh with what is considered one of the grandest and most glamorous of White House affairs 10 months into Obama's presidency may allay some of those concerns, along with perceptions that

Pakistan has surpassed India as America's best friend in South Asia.

It also may be Obama's way of closing the loop with all the major U.S. allies as his freshman year in office draws to a fast close.

Continued on Page B5

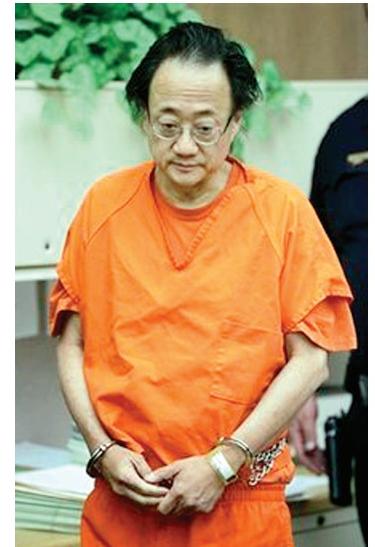
Ex-Democratic fundraiser sentenced to 24 years

By LARRY NEUMEISTER,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Former Democratic fundraiser Norman Hsu was sentenced to more than 24 years in prison Tuesday by a judge who accused him of funding his fraud by manipulating the political process in a way that "strikes at the very core of our democracy."

U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero sentenced the 58-year-old Hsu to 20 years in prison for his guilty plea to fraud charges and another four years and four months in prison for his conviction at trial for breaking campaign finance laws.

In a lengthy criticism of Hsu's fraud, the judge said the former fundraiser used political contributions to win respect and impress



In this file photo, Norman Hsu is escorted into a Redwood City, Calif., courtroom, Sept. 21, 2007.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma, pool) investors as he committed a campaign finance fraud that "strikes at the very core of our democracy."

Continued on Page B6



Rescuers assist residents from floodwaters caused by Typhoon Ondoy as they board a rubber boat in Cainta Rizal east of Manila September 27, 2009.

REUTERS/Erik de Castro

Philippines braces for new storm as toll hits 246

By Raju Gopalakrishnan

MANILA (Reuters) — Philippine authorities braced on Tuesday for another storm as the toll from rain and floods from a weekend typhoon, now bearing down on Vietnam, rose to 246 dead while damages climbed to nearly \$100 million.

Weather forecasters said a new storm forming in the Pacific Ocean was likely to enter Philippine waters on Thursday and make landfall later in the week on the northern island of Luzon, just like Saturday's Typhoon Ketsana.

Continued on Next Page

Quake triggers Tsunami in American Samoa, 14 die



A tsunami warning was issued for New Zealand and other small Pacific islands after a major 7.9 magnitude quake struck in the ocean off American Samoa, U.S. government agencies said on Tuesday.

REUTERS/Graphics

are casualties," the police spokeswoman said by phone. "I cannot say any more at the moment."

A tsunami was observed at Apia, Western Samoa, and at Pago Pago, American Samoa, according to the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, a branch of the U.S. National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration. The waves at Pago Pago were 5.1 feet above normal sea level, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii. The center earlier issued a tsunami warning for New Zealand, American Samoa and other small Pacific islands.

American Samoa is a tiny U.S. territory that lies about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand. It is home to about 65,000 people.

Holly Bundock, spokeswoman for the National Park Service's Pacific West Region in Oakland, California, said "I would say we're alarmed," adding the service had heard from Mike Reynolds, superintendent of the National Park of American Samoa. Reynolds told a Yellowstone dispatch operator that four tsunami waves, each 15 to 20 feet high, reaching half-mile to mile (1.6 miles) inland on island of Tutuila, where Pago Pago is.

"The National Park of American Samoa visitor

center and its offices appear to be destroyed completely," Bundock said.

Reynolds reported deaths but had no confirmation of numbers, she said. "He's completely cut off from the rest of the island," Bundock said.

In the island nation of Western Samoa, some residents told Radio New Zealand they had felt a big jolt and were recommended by authorities to move to higher ground.

"Sea level readings indicate a tsunami was generated. It may have been destructive along coasts near the earthquake epicenter and could also be a threat to more distant coasts," the Pacific warning center said.

Nathan Becker, an official at the center, told MSNBC a tsunami wave can dissipate or grow larger and go all the way across the ocean. "This is why we've issued a warning for a wide area," he said.

The epicenter of the quake was located 120 miles southwest

of American Samoa, a remote Pacific island, the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS earlier said the quake measured 7.9 magnitude. It struck at a depth of 11.2 miles.

HAWAII MONITORS SITUATION

Hawaii was monitoring the situation.

CNN said that if a tsunami hit Hawaii, it would arrive at about 7:18 EDT.

Chevron Corp said it was monitoring the tsunami threat to Hawaii, where the company has a 54,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery near Honolulu.

"We are currently monitoring the situation via updates provided by local authorities," said Chevron spokesman Sean Comey."

Tesoro Corp did not immediately reply to messages about its 93,500 bpd refinery at Ewa Beach, also on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

Both refineries provide jet fuel to commercial airlines and the U.S. military complex at Pearl Harbor as well motor fuels. □

PHILLIPINES

Continued from Page B1

Ketsana dumped more than a month's worth of average rainfall on Manila and surrounding areas in one 24-hour period. About 80 percent of the city of 15 million was flooded.

The Philippine government has come in for scathing criticism for its response to the disaster, with many calling it inadequate and delayed. Authorities estimated damage from the storm so far at around 4.69 billion pesos (\$98.5 million). More than 1.9 million people were affected and 375,000 had abandoned their homes and taken refuge in evacuation centers.

More than 3,000 houses were either damaged or destroyed. The death toll could rise further once reports come in from remote areas. The storm hit metropolitan Manila and 12 provinces. Dozens remained missing and feared dead, disaster officials said.

"For casualties, the increase will be not as great, but the damage figures may increase," Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro told a news

conference on Tuesday. "Even opportunity loss of revenues for establishments, that alone would amount to hundreds of millions at least per day."

VIETNAM NEXT

Ketsana was to make landfall in central Vietnam later on Tuesday, where authorities have ordered the evacuation of at least 170,000 people. Hundreds of soldiers were helping evacuate people and with storm preparations. Ships have been told to take shelter in Danang. Vietnam Airlines has canceled all flights to the port city since Monday and schools in several coastal provinces were closed.

In the Philippines, authorities released water from two dams north of Manila, but stressed it was being done carefully to prevent any recurrence of floods.

"Angat opened their gates slowly just to keep it at spilling level and the effect would be minimal," Teodoro said, adding the another dam in Nueva Ecija province also opened its gates to release water.

Communist rebels announced

a unilateral ceasefire with government forces and ordered cadres to help in flood relief operations.

Private citizens and volunteer groups were collecting relief goods -- mostly clothes, drinking water and medicines -- and distributing them to victims. Many people have thrown open their homes to those who were forced to abandon theirs.

Several foreign governments and U.N. agencies have already pledged nearly \$2 million in rice and relief supplies, Teodoro told reporters, adding he met lawmakers from both houses of Congress to seek emergency funds for rehabilitation work.

U.S. soldiers deployed in the south of the country have been brought to Manila to help in relief, while the United Nations has announced it will give food aid and cash for medical supplies.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has called the typhoon "an extreme event that has strained our response capabilities to the limit."

"But it is not breaking us," she said in a statement on Monday,

after opening the presidential palace for relief efforts.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime typhoon."

Schools in the capital region and nearby provinces will remain closed for the third day on Wednesday because about 170 campuses are being used as shelter areas for more than 10,000 families. About 60



Members of the U.S. Navy evacuate a pregnant woman from her flooded house brought on by Typhoon Ketsana, known locally as "Ondoy" in Pasig city east of Manila September 28, 2009. Philippine officials scampered to send relief aid on Monday to hundreds of thousands hit by weekend floods in and around Manila, while anger mounted over what was seen as an inadequate response from the government. Picture taken September 28, 2009.

REUTERS/Stringer (PHILIPPINES ENVIRONMENT DISASTER)

schools were also damaged by the floods.

Analysts say the floods have worsened the reputation of Arroyo, who has been accused of corruption and poll fraud, and that it could affect the prospects of Teodoro, the administration candidate, in the May 2010 presidential election. □

NYC terror suspect pleads not guilty, kept in jail

By TOM HAYS,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — An Afghan immigrant pleaded not guilty Tuesday to planning a New York City terrorist attack with bombs made from beauty-supply chemicals—an alleged plot authorities say was helped by at least three accomplices whose whereabouts and level of involvement haven't been revealed.

"The conspiracy here is international in scope," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Knox told a federal judge in Brooklyn.

Najibullah Zazi, wearing a blue jail smock, never spoke and showed no emotion as his lawyer entered the plea in a packed courtroom. He was ordered held without bail. "You get the impression he's a nice guy, don't you?" defense attorney Michael Dowling told the reporters afterward.

The 24-year-old Denver airport shuttle driver has been the only alleged terrorist identified so far. But authorities have said three people traveled from New York City to suburban Denver this summer and used stolen credit cards to help Zazi

stockpile products containing hydrogen peroxide and acetone—common ingredients for homemade bombs.

Dowling admitted that his client visited Pakistan last year, and made purchases earlier this year at a beauty supply shop in Aurora, Colo. But he added, "Those acts are not illegal" and cautioned against a "rush to judgment." Asked about possible accomplices, the lawyer said, "I don't know the names of anybody else that allegedly conspired with Mr. Zazi. ... Those names have not been produced."

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly refused Tuesday to discuss the potential of other plotters at large, but insisted there was no threat to the city.

The plot "has been broken up," Kelly said. "I see no danger emanating ... from the people involved in this investigation."

Prosecutors allege that Zazi has admitted that while living in Queens, he went to Pakistan and received explosives training from al-Qaida. Security videos

and store receipts show that when he returned and moved to Colorado, he and three others bought several bottles of beauty products over the course of several weeks, court papers said.

On Sept. 6, Zazi took some of his products into a Colorado hotel room outfitted with a stove on which he later left acetone residue, authorities said. He repeatedly sought another person's help cooking up the bomb, "each communication more urgent in tone than the last," the papers said.

The FBI was listening to Zazi and becoming increasingly concerned as the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and a New York visit by President Barack Obama approached, officials said. After he rented a car on Sept. 9 and drove to New York, investigators say they secretly searched the vehicle and found a laptop computer with bomb-making instructions.

On Sept. 10, Zazi told the Queens imam in an intercepted phone call that he feared he was being watched, court papers said. The imam later



In this photo released by the New York City Police Department, Najibullah Zazi, center, is escorted off an NYPD helicopter by U.S. Marshals after being extradited from Denver, Colo., Friday, Sept. 25, 2009. Zazi was sent to New York to face charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction in a plot law enforcement has said was focused on blowing up commuter trains.

(AP Photo/New York City Police Department)

tipped Zazi off, saying police had come around and asked questions, the papers said. Zazi cut short a five-day trip and flew back to Denver on Sept. 12. He was arrested

a week later and initially charged along with his father and the imam with lying to investigators. Zazi's next court date has been set for Dec. 3. □

Feds: Smooth global swindler nabbed at US border

By LISA RATHKE,
Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Authorities say a con man who has made a living stealing from wealthy hotel guests around the world has been arrested in Vermont.

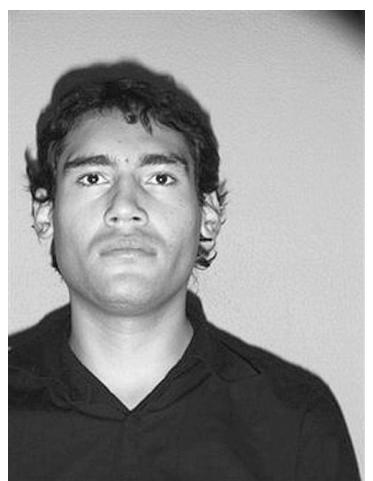
Federal authorities say Juan Carlos Guzman-Betancourt was nabbed Sept. 21 at a gas station near the U.S.-Canadian border in Derby Line. He is being charged with re-entering the U.S. after being deported.

Authorities say the 33-year-old Colombian has claimed at least 10 aliases, using his good looks and gift of gab to get into rooms and locked safes.

He has been convicted of larceny in Virginia and New York and fraud in Florida. He has been wanted in Canada, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, Thailand and Venezuela.

His lawyer, Michael Desautels, didn't return a call Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Metropolitan Police)



FILE - This April 2005 file photo released by London's Metropolitan Police shows Juan Carlos Guzman-Betancourt, a Colombian, at Southwark Crown Court, in London. Guzman-Betancourt, 33, was arrested by a U.S. Border Patrol agent as he waited for a taxi at a gas station in Derby Line, Vt., on Sept. 21, 2009.

(AP Photo/Metropolitan Police)

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McTriage: Hospitals use drive-thrus for swine flu



Dr. Toral Shah examines Sammi Jiminez, 4, in a tent clinic where patients with flu symptoms are treated outside the emergency room at Dell Children's Hospital Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, in Austin, Texas.

(AP Photo/Harry Cabluck)

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE,
AP Medical Writer

Fast-food places have them. Banks and pharmacies do, too. Now hospitals are opening drive-thrus and drive-up tent clinics to screen and treat a swelling tide of swine flu patients.

Call it McTriage. And yes, you can get Tamiflu with that — if you're sick enough to need it. Most people aren't.

The idea behind these efforts is to keep coughing, feverish people out of regular emergency rooms, where they can infect heart attack victims and other very sick patients. The need has soared in recent weeks as flu has spread among schoolchildren before vaccine is available.

In Austin, Texas, Dell Children's Medical Center had nearly 400 ER visits on Sunday alone, mostly kids with swine flu. Dozens were diverted to two tents outside, and there are plans to add a third.

In Memphis, Tenn., Le Bonheur (pronounced luh-BAHN-uhr) Children's Hospital has had more than 5,500 kids with flu-like illness seek emergency care since Aug. 1. The hospital set up tents outside its ER on Sept. 11 and already has treated more than 900 cases in them. Hope and Billy Howard took their 3-year-old daughter, Emma Smith, to one on Sunday.

The little girl had a fever that would not break with over-the-counter medicine, complained of belly pain and refused to eat, and her parents could not reach her pediatrician.

"I didn't know what to give her, and I didn't want to take any chances," her mother said. At the tent ER, "we were in and out in 15 minutes."

Entire families who are sick have shown up at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital in Fort Polk, La., near the Texas state line.

"They just drive up in their pajamas," said Henry Johnson, a physician's assistant who helped start a tent system there. People pull up, park and go through three tents, where they undergo an exam that includes having their temperature taken. They are usually sent home, with prescriptions if needed.

"It's working out for us — nothing but rave reviews," he said. Very few patients have needed to be admitted, doctors running these programs say.

Jim Bentley, policy chief at the American Hospital Association, said many hospitals are trying novel ways to care for more people than their emergency rooms can handle, especially children.

"You're dealing often with anxious patients who want to know is it OK to care for them at home" versus the hospital, he said. "One thing a tent offers is a less intimidating

atmosphere to the child," as opposed to an emergency room with its beeps and other noises and scary trauma cases, he said. These programs can be part of disaster plans that each hospital must have, said Dr. Pat Crocker, chief of emergency medicine at Dell Children's in Austin. "It's working great for flu, but it can be a model for hospitals all over the country to use for emergency surge capacity for other things," such as natural disasters or explosions, he said.

Under a program at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., many flu patients will not even have to leave their cars.

Stanford Hospitals and Clinics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital share an ER, and recently tested a drive-thru system for flu patients in a parking ramp. Forty Red Cross

volunteers played the parts of actual patients who sought emergency care in April and May, when swine flu first emerged.

Doctors in the drive-thru drill correctly "admitted" the six volunteers who needed to be hospitalized, and correctly sent the 34 others home, said Dr. Eric Weiss, medical director of disaster planning for the hospitals.

The drive-thru shaved 80 minutes off the typical two-hour wait in the regular emergency room. The plan is to put it into action whenever swine flu patients swamp the ER.

It works like this: A nurse near the ER stops cars and sends appropriate cases to the drive-thru. Signs tell families to tune the radio to a public broadcasting station that describes what happens next.

"The patient's automobile acts as a self-contained isolation compartment, a moving exam room," Weiss said. "The hoods of the cars make excellent places to write notes," and medical records are slid under the windshield wipers.

Through the car window, a doctor uses a device that clips on a finger to measure blood pressure, pulse and breathing rates. Fingerstick blood tests can be done.

In nearby tents, diabetics can get a urine test for blood sugar, and heart patients can get an EKG. Portable X-rays are available, too. The last stop has a pharmacy to get vaccine, medicines or a prescription to fill. Weiss has a grant to develop a handout of the plan to give to other hospitals and recently described it at a California Hospital Association meeting □

Va. gov: No reason to stop sniper execution

By DENA POTTER,
Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said Tuesday he can't think of any reason he would stop the execution of Washington, D.C.-area sniper John Allen Muhammad.

Muhammad is scheduled to be executed Nov. 10 for the October 2002 killing spree that left 10 dead in the nation's capital, Virginia and Maryland.

"I know of nothing in this case now that would suggest that there is any credible claim of innocence or that there was anything procedurally wrong with the prosecution," Kaine said on his monthly call-in radio show on WTOP.

Kaine said he would review Muhammad's petition for clemency when he gets it.

Muhammad attorney Jon Sheldon said there were "huge procedural errors in the case" that he plans to raise in the clemency petition he expects to file in mid-October, and other issues he'll raise in a motion with the U.S. Supreme Court in early November.

Muhammad was sentenced to death for the slaying of Dean Meyers, who was shot at a Manassas gas station. Myers was one of 10 people killed over a three-week period in 2002 by Muhammad and his teenage accomplice Lee Boyd Malvo. Malvo is serving a life sentence.

In August, a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously rejected Muhammad's claims that prosecutors withheld critical evidence and that Muhammad should not have been allowed to act as his own attorney for part of his trial.

Muhammad made his own opening statement

and questioned 18 witnesses before turning his defense over to court-appointed attorneys. During oral arguments in May, Sheldon argued that Muhammad's trial lawyers failed to tell the judge that he was too mentally impaired to represent himself.

Muhammad also claimed prosecutors withheld thousands of pages of documents that could have helped him, including ballistics reports, witness interviews and an FBI profiler's report that the shootings probably were the work of a lone gunman.

Judge Roger Gregory wrote in the opinion that the court did not condone the state's actions, adding that the prosecution should err on the side of disclosure — especially when the defendant is facing a possible death sentence.

"Yet, at this stage of the criminal process, we deal only with actions that were clear violations of the Constitution. While not admirable, the Commonwealth's actions did not violate the Constitution," Gregory wrote. Sheldon said death shouldn't be allowed because of fuzziness between the degrees of constitutional violation.

"So not only was it improper, but it apparently was likely a violation of the constitution, just not a 'clear violation,'" he said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "I'd call that affirming a death sentence on a technicality."

Kaine usually does not act on clemency petitions until after the courts have denied a condemned inmate's request.

Kaine, a Roman Catholic, is opposed to the death penalty, but has allowed nine executions and commuted one sentence since he took office in 2006. Virginia has the nation's second busiest death chamber behind Texas.

Senate panel rejects govt-run insurance option

By DAVID ESPO,
AP Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON — In a long-anticipated showdown, liberal Democrats twice failed on Tuesday to inject a government-run insurance option into sweeping health care legislation taking shape in the Senate, despite bipartisan agreement that private insurers must change their ways. The two votes marked a victory for Montana Democrat Max

Baucus, the Senate Finance Committee chairman, who is hoping to push his middle-of-the-road measure through the panel by week's end. It also kept alive the possibility that at least one Republican may yet swing behind the overhaul, a key goal of both Baucus and the White House. The developments occurred as Democrats in the House sought savings to reduce their companion legislation

to roughly \$900 billion over a decade, the price tag President Barack Obama has suggested. One option under consideration would reduce the number of individuals and families eligible for federal health coverage subsidies to those earning less than 400 percent of poverty, or about \$43,000 for a single person and \$88,000 for a family of four, officials said, commenting only on condition of anonymity. The

about deepening U.S. relations with Pakistan.

But a trip to India so far has escaped the sights of the president's travel planners. That's where the state dinner comes in.

Obama's first one will be the talk of the town, perhaps second only to his inauguration and the parties that followed in terms of celebrity star power and got-to-be-there fever.

A ton of planning is involved, from creating the invitation itself to compiling a guest list. Meals, desserts and wines are tasted until the right pairings are found. Flowers must be chosen and arranged just so,

along with the seating, place settings and entertainment.

Responsibility for the planning falls to first lady Michelle Obama and her staff, and people will be waiting to see what twists she and her social secretary, Desri Rogers, will put on one of the White House's most staid traditions. Early state dinner rumblings after Obama took office were about opening the events up to "real people."

Inquiring minds also want to know what other changes may be in store. Will they eat in the State Dining Room or shift chairs to the larger East Room? □



Senate Finance Committee members, from left, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., talk on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday on Sept. 29, 2009, before the start of the markup of health care legislation.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

cost) down."

If anything, the health care debate was growing more intense. According to one independent organization, television advertising around the issue has been running at a level of more than \$1.1 million a day for the past week and now stands over \$100 million since the beginning of the year. □

subsidies are designed to make insurance more affordable, and account for a significant percentage of spending in the bill.

Without disclosing any of the details of a marathon closed-door leadership meeting, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters, "It's hard work, but we're determined to get it (the bill's

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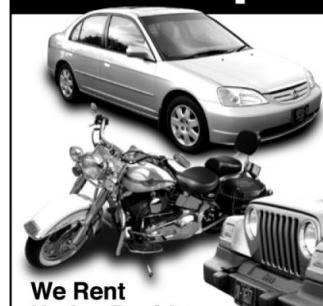
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SENTENCE**Continued from Page B1**

The judge said Hsu stole more than \$50 million from hundreds of investors in a 10-year Ponzi scheme by winning their confidence with his pristine reputation and friendly nature, a two-faced quality the judge noted was common among certain white collar criminals.

He called Hsu a "wolf in sheep's clothing."

He said his "conniving use of the political process to fund his fraud" made his crimes "much more sinister and reprehensible."

Before he was sentenced, Hsu apologized to "your honor and everybody else." His donations became an embarrassment for Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign. His arrest led Clinton to return

more than \$800,000 to donors linked to Hsu.

Prosecutors say Hsu obtained millions of dollars from investors by claiming clothing or high-technology ventures would pay returns of 14 and 20 percent. Instead, he spent the money on himself or made charitable contributions to enhance his image, they said. Hsu's decade-long Ponzi scheme collapsed in September 2007. In addition to the 24 year and four month sentence he received Tuesday, Hsu must separately serve three years in prison for a conviction in California.

Outside court, Hsu lawyer Bernard Seidler said his client told him goodbye before returning to prison, where he has been for the last two years. The lawyer said Hsu reacted calmly to the sentence, which

was less than the 30-years-to-life term prosecutors had sought.

"I think he was expecting it. I really do," Seidler said.

Seidler has said Hsu donated about \$850,000 of his own money to political candidates and helped raise \$1 million for Democratic candidates through about 75 people he knew who also made contributions. He said Hsu gave \$3.5 million to charitable causes.

Prior to sentencing, Seidler told the judge that his client had helped educate fellow inmates over the last two years.

Some of the inmates even wrote letters to the judge on his behalf. The judge cited letters he received from victims as well.

The judge, though, said benevolence was a common characteristic of a subset of white-collar criminals who live a double life as they carry out irrational, greedy acts

"totally out of character with their otherwise law abiding life."

He accused Hsu of using a "stunningly elaborate system of fraud and deceit" to steal from clients who believed they were among his closest friends.

Marrero said he could not be lenient with someone who had performed "dozens, if not hundreds, of acts of dishonesty and fraud."

When he spoke, Hsu asked the judge to appoint a trustee that he could work with to help recover money for victims. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ruia M. Kelly said Hsu's offer should be ignored because he had not helped victims earlier. "Frankly, it's ludicrous," she said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexander J. Willscher portrayed the Democratic candidates Hsu had helped as innocent victims of his devious ways, saying Hsu "lied to some

of the pre-eminent politicians in the country."

The government said at trial that Hsu used clients of his fraudulent investment business, including actors and other political novices, as straw donors to make thousands of dollars in campaign donations. The scheme bypassed rules limiting what any individual or group can donate.

During the May trial, prosecutors played a voicemail recording of Clinton, then a senator, effusively praising Hsu for his support.

"I've never seen anybody who has been more loyal and more effective and really just having greater success supporting someone than you," she told him. "Everywhere I go, you're there. If you're not, you're sending people to be part of my events. You know, we're going to win this campaign, Norman, because you single-handedly are going to make that happen." □

Judge: No 9/11 mention at ex-commissioner's trial

**By JIM FITZGERALD,
Associated Press Writer**

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — The terror attack on the World Trade Center, which made New York City's police commissioner a national figure, cannot be brought up by the defense at his corruption trial, a federal judge ruled Tuesday. "This is not about 9/11," Judge Stephen Robinson said at a pretrial conference. He said the attack was irrelevant to allegations that former Commissioner Bernard Kerik accepted apartment renovations from a construction company in exchange for recommending the company for city contracts.

The government had requested that the defense not be allowed to bring up 9/11, apparently because it would prejudice jurors in Kerik's favor. Kerik received heavy publicity, much of it glowing, for his actions after terrorist-controlled jetliners brought down the trade center on Sept. 11, 2001.

The judge said defense lawyers may mention that Kerik was commissioner in 2001 and that he received much attention, but may not specifically mention the attack.

Robinson also said he would also consider case-by-case whether witnesses can mention 9/11; for example, he said, a witness may want to say that Kerik's performance after the attack was the reason he was considered for head of Homeland Security.

Kerik's trial is scheduled to start next month. He has pleaded not guilty.

Robinson spent much of the hearing criticizing Kerik and his lawyers for an e-mail that he said

was submitted to The Washington Times for publication by Anthony Modafferi, an Oakland, N.J., lawyer who is the trustee of Kerik's legal defense fund.

The judge said the article, which was not published, contained some information that was supposed to be under seal and some inaccurate information. He said Modafferi was Kerik's "propagandist and chief fund raiser" and suggested Kerik was feeding him information "for those two purposes." "You are providing information to what would loosely be called, and charitably, a loose cannon," the judge said. He warned Kerik he could be jailed for inappropriate behavior and demanded an affidavit spelling out his connection to Modafferi. Defense lawyer Barry Berke told the judge that Kerik was unaware of the e-mail. He said Kerik had retained Modafferi for legal advice — but not in writing and not for pay. The judge said Modafferi should appear in court if he's part of the defense team.

On the legal defense fund's Internet site, Modafferi writes that Kerik "is the victim of a carefully orchestrated campaign of vilification and harassment by government prosecutors."

The judge told the lawyers that since former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who was Kerik's boss, "may become an issue," he was disclosing that he had been hired by Giuliani as a prosecutor when Giuliani was U.S. attorney in Manhattan. He also said he had received a solicitation to give money for Kerik's defense, probably because of his Giuliani connection.

"I didn't make any donation," the judge said □



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Taliban roadway attacks spread fear in Afghanistan

By LORI HINNANT,
Associated Press Writer

KABUL — Taliban militants are sowing fear along Afghanistan's highways with stepped-up checkpoints, hijackings and bombs — including one Tuesday that killed at least 30 bus passengers in the south. Afghan authorities say the attacks, often carried out by only a handful of militants, are part of a psychological campaign to convince civilians that Taliban control is spreading. "It is quite possible for a group of three to five insurgents to come out on the highway and attack a convoy," said the Interior Ministry spokesman, Zemarai Bashary. "Maybe thousands of people will travel that day and they are watching that convoy burning."

Militants are planting more roadside bombs than ever, killing far more Afghan civilians than Afghan or coalition soldiers. The bombings — and ambushes with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades — are increasingly taking place on main roads against trucks and buses.

Some attacks are in areas where Taliban have long held sway, such as Kandahar, the group's spiritual birthplace, but others are in regions where

militant activity has risen only recently, such as in the north. Earlier this week, militants at a checkpoint in eastern Afghanistan ambushed a convoy loaded with construction materials, killed six drivers, kidnapped one and left their trucks burning by the roadside. The same day, a crowded van hit a roadside bomb in northern Faryab province, killing six people. The bomb on Tuesday struck the crowded bus as it was traveling from the western province of Nimroz to Kandahar city, a trip that winds through some of the country's most dangerous districts in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

The attack, on the outskirts of Kandahar city, killed 30 people and wounded 39 others, said Sardar Mohammad Zazai, Kandahar's provincial police chief. Officials said the bus driver came upon a NATO team clearing mines and pulled off onto a parallel unpaved road where the bomb was hidden.

"An explosion hit the bus. I don't know what happened. When I came to, I got out of the bus and saw that the bus was totally wrecked," Lal Jan, a survivor, said at Kandahar's hospital. An elderly woman named Zulaikha Bibi wept

over the death of her daughter-in-law. Two of her nephews were wounded.

U.S. and NATO troops have long come under criticism for civilian deaths as a result of airstrikes. But U.S. military officials say they believe the Taliban will also face a popular backlash for the civilian deaths caused by roadside bombs. A U.N. report issued Saturday said August was the deadliest month of the year for civilians because of violence from the insurgency. A total of 1,500 civilians died in Afghanistan from January through August, up from 1,145 for the same period of 2008. About 68 percent of the deaths were due to the insurgents, the report said. "The enemies of Afghanistan are planting mines on the main highway and killing innocent women and children," Zazai said.

Bashary said the Taliban are trying to carry out attacks "that have a psychological impact, rather than an economic and security impact."

"I see a change of militant strategy," said Gen. Khaliullah Zaiyi, police chief of Kunar, the province where the convoy ambush took place on Sunday. "They know it is very easy for them to come out on the road and attack civilian convoys by burning their trucks, killing



Map of Afghanistan locating Kandahar. At least 30 civilians were killed when a bus hit an improvised explosive device in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan, the interior ministry said.

(AFP Graphic/Sophie Ramis)

innocent people." He said the attacks give the militants a presence and make the government appear impotent, even in areas that have been relatively secure. "Everyone will say this road is dangerous because the Taliban

came last week," he said. "They don't have the ability to fight our forces directly. But by conducting guerrilla attacks directly against civilians, not security forces, they can kill people, burn down trucks, and they can block the road." □

Iran put nuclear site near base in case of attack



This satellite image taken Saturday Sept. 26, 2009, provided by GeoEye shows a facility under construction inside a mountain located about 20 miles north northeast of Qom, Iran. Although there is no confirmation, analysts at both the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security and London-based IHS Jane's believe this satellite photo of a site on a military base near Qom, Iran, is most likely the location of the newly revealed centrifuge facility. Analysts at both ISIS and Jane's point to apparent tunnel entrances leading into a mountain.

(AP Photo/GeoEye Satellite Image, IHS Jane's Analysis)

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI,
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran's nuclear chief said Tuesday his country built its newly revealed uranium enrichment facility inside a mountain next to a military site to ensure continuity of its nuclear activities in case of an attack — an unusually detailed disclosure that may be intended to defuse international pressure. But Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, who also heads the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, took a hard line over the country's nuclear rights two days before the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany meet

with Iran in Geneva.

He said Iran is willing to have a general discussion about nuclear technology in Geneva but will not give up its right to uranium enrichment and conversion. "We will never bargain over our sovereign right," said Salehi. The revelations of the site that had been secretly under construction brought increased international pressure on Iran to come clean on its nuclear program, which the U.S. and others suspect is aimed at producing atomic bombs. Salehi reiterated that Iran is in talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency to set a timetable "soon" for an

inspection of the site near the holy city of Qom. But he said the country did not feel bound by a U.S. demand to allow the inspection within a month.

"We are working out the timetable," said Salehi. "It could be sooner than a month or later." He said the nuclear facility is next to a military compound of the Revolutionary Guard, Iran's most powerful military force, equipped with an air defense system. Salehi also said President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told him Tuesday he named the enrichment plant "Meshkat," which means Lantern. "This site is at the base of a mountain and was selected on purpose in a place that would be protected against aerial attack. That's why the site was chosen adjacent to a military site," Salehi told a news conference. "It was intended to safeguard our nuclear facilities and reduce the cost of active defense system. If we had chosen another site, we would have had to set up another aerial defense system."

Details about the newly revealed site and the fact that Iran kept its construction secret have raised more suspicion among experts and Western governments that Iran's nuclear program is aimed at producing weapons — something Tehran has long denied. The U.S. and its allies have strongly condemned Iran over the site and demanded it immediately make a full disclosure on its nuclear

activities or face harsher international sanctions.

President Barack Obama's administration is planning to push for new sanctions against Iran, targeting its energy, financial and telecommunications sectors if it does not comply with international demands to come clean about its nuclear program, according to U.S. officials. Iran's decision to disclose details about its hidden nuclear site and allow the IAEA to inspect it could be an attempt to defuse international anger that the U.S. could harness in pushing through stronger sanctions.

Iran also offered the U.S. a conciliatory gesture Tuesday,

allowing Swiss diplomats to

meet with three American

hikers who were arrested by Iran for illegal entry in late July, according to Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman Adrian Sollberger. The Swiss represent U.S. diplomatic interests in Iran.

Israel has trumpeted the disclosure of the hidden facility as proof of its long-held assertion that Iran seeks to build nuclear weapons. Israel considers Iran's nuclear program a strategic threat and has not ruled out a pre-emptive military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities.

But some Israeli analysts believe the disclosure of the new nuclear facility could actually put off an Israeli strike because it increases the chances that the international community will impose harsher sanctions.

"If there ever was a thought of going with a military option, it's been put off," said Ephraim Kam, the deputy director of Tel Aviv University's Institute of National Security Studies.

"Iran was caught lying again, it's clearly moving toward becoming a nuclear power.

"Now the Americans are better able to try to persuade the Europeans, and even the Russians, to go for tougher sanctions," he said.

Israeli officials have been instructed not to comment on the newly revealed nuclear site or Iran's missile tests on Sunday and Monday.

Hard-line Iranian lawmaker

Mohammad Karami Rad threatened Tuesday that if the U.S. and its allies pressure Iran during the Geneva talks, Tehran may pull out of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency. Iranian officials have dismissed such calls in the past, saying the country will remain committed to its obligations.

Salehi said the Qom facility was a "contingency" facility to make sure that Iran's nuclear activities won't stop even for a moment. "This is a contingency plant. It is one of pre-emptive measures aimed at protecting our nuclear technology and human work force. It is a small version of Natanz," he said. "This is to show that the Islamic Republic of Iran won't allow its nuclear activities stop under any circumstances even for a moment." Natanz is an industrial-scale enrichment plant in central Iran while the Qom facility, according to Salehi, is a semi-industrial facility.

He gave the location of the site as about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of capital Tehran on the road leading to Qom. That is about 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Qom. He dismissed a statement by Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday that the facility was near the village of Fordo, which is about 30 miles south of Qom. A satellite image provided by DigitalGlobe and GeoEye shows a well-fortified facility built into a mountain about 20 miles northeast of Qom, with ventilation shafts and a nearby surface-to-air missile site, according to defense consultancy IHS Jane's, which did the analysis of the imagery. The image was taken in September.

GlobalSecurity.org analyzed images from 2005 and January 2009 when the site was in an earlier phase of construction and believes the facility is not underground but was instead cut into a mountain. It is constructed of heavily reinforced concrete and is about the size of a football field — large enough to house 3,000 centrifuges used to refine uranium. □



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Nigerian peacekeeper killed in Darfur ambush

KHARTOUM (Reuters) — A Nigerian peacekeeper was killed and two Kenyan colleagues were wounded in Sudan's troubled Darfur region when armed men ambushed their convoy, the joint U.N./African Union force told Reuters Tuesday. The attack underlined the insecurity that persists in the region despite a flurry of diplomatic efforts to find an end to the six-year conflict.

A group of up to eight unknown armed men opened fire on peacekeeping soldiers and police as they escorted a minibus carrying civilian workers in El Geneina Monday evening, force communications chief Kemal Saiki said.

"Three peacekeepers were injured ... Unfortunately one of the wounded later died as a result of his wounds," Saiki said, adding the attack brought to 17 the number of UNAMID troops killed in violence since their arrival in January last year.

"They (the attackers) opened fire, apparently with no warning ... Targeting peacekeepers like

this is not only a cowardly act, it achieves nothing. We condemn it." El Geneina is the capital of West Darfur district.

The attackers also stole one of the three vehicles in the UNAMID convoy, said Saiki.

An official from the force confirmed a Nigerian soldier was killed and two Kenyan military policemen were wounded in the attack. The survivors were being treated in hospital in Nyala, the capital of south Darfur, the official added.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the Sudanese government to track down those responsible for the attack.

"The secretary-general calls on the government of Sudan to do its utmost to identify the perpetrators and to hold them accountable for this deadly attack," a spokeswoman for the secretary-general said in a statement.

"He further calls on the parties to the conflict to respect the integrity of the peacekeeping force," she said. Law and order has collapsed



Rebels of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) ride in a pick-up truck in El-Fasher, the administrative capital of north Darfur. The Sudanese army has attacked rebel positions in the Western Sudanese region of Darfur, a senior rebel official told AFP on Friday, as peacekeepers tried to confirm the news.

(AFP/Ashraf Shazly)

in Darfur since mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the government in 2003, demanding better representation and more development for the region.

Khartoum mobilized troops and mostly Arab militias to crush the uprising, unleashing a wave of

violence that Washington and activists call genocide. Sudan's government denies the charge. Estimates of the resulting death toll range from 10,000, according to Khartoum, to up to 300,000 according to U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes. □



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Polanski asks Swiss court to free him from custody



Polish-French director Roman Polanski attends the opening ceremony of the 8th edition of the Marrakesh film festival in 2008. A Wikipedia page devoted to Roman Polanski was locked on Monday due to fighting over whether the entry should emphasize his accomplishments as a film-maker or his underage sex case.

(AFP/File/Abdelhak Senna)

By BRADLEY S. KLAPPER and ERNST E. ABEGG, Associated Press Writers

ZURICH — Roman Polanski's legal team fired the first shot Tuesday in a lengthy battle over his possible extradition to the United States, asking a Swiss court to release the famous filmmaker from prison immediately. The Swiss Federal Criminal Court announced the filing and said a decision would be made "within the next weeks," but experts said a swift release was unlikely, and it appeared that the 76-year-old director could remain in jail for at least a few months.

Even if the court rules

in Polanski's favor, the decision would probably be appealed immediately by the Swiss government, extending his incarceration in a Zurich cell.

Meanwhile in Poland, the prime minister urged restraint after two days of heated calls from government officials for Polanski's release. French leaders who had also been outspoken in support of the filmmaker said their consul had visited him in detention.

Authorities in Los Angeles consider Polanski a convicted felon and a fugitive, and Switzerland says there has been an international arrest warrant

out on him since 2005. Polanski was accused of plying a 13-year-old girl with champagne and Quaaludes during a modeling shoot in 1977 and raping her. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy. Facing life in prison if convicted, he agreed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and commute his sentence to the 42 days already served. But Polanski fled the country Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was scheduled to be sentenced, after learning that the judge told lawyers he planned to tack on more prison time. Experts predicted that Polanski had little hope of winning his freedom in Switzerland. On top of the court proceedings his team initiated Tuesday, Polanski will also have to face a formal U.S. extradition request that has not yet been received by the Swiss. Washington can wait until late November to make its filing.

The criminal court will decide on the legality of the American request for Polanski's apprehension. The Justice Ministry and

Polanski could later seek to overturn any decision at Switzerland's highest court, the Federal Tribunal.

"We will examine the ruling and then decide what we will do," Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman Guido Balmer told The Associated Press. He refused to speculate on how long Polanski would remain in jail.

While the director's lawyers were hoping he could get out on bail or under house arrest, a former Zurich prosecutor said Polanski had no chance of an immediate release. Dieter Jann said extradition would be hard to fight, and he thought Switzerland had followed procedures correctly.

Polanski, a dual Polish and French citizen, directed "Chinatown," "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Pianist," for which he won a best-director Oscar. He was arrested Saturday as he arrived in Zurich to receive an award from a film festival.

While initial French support for Polanski seemed strong, it became clear on Tuesday that many in France opposed the government's position.

Marc Laffineur, vice president of the National Assembly and a member of President Nicolas Sarkozy's center-right party, criticized government ministers for speaking out too quickly in the filmmaker's defense, saying the charges against

Polanski should not be taken lightly. Several other top politicians spoke out, too.

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk also weighed in, urging his Cabinet ministers to exercise calm and reminding them that it is a "case of rape and of punishment for having sex with a child."

The request filed Tuesday by the director's newly hired Swiss lawyers was accompanied by proposals for bail and "guarantees," Polanski's French attorney

Herve Temime said. He would not elaborate, but added that house arrest at the director's chalet in Gstaad was one option.

The Swiss Justice Ministry did not rule out the possibility that Polanski could be released on bail under strict conditions, but said house arrest had never happened before in a similar case.

"In most cases the imprisoned person has to remain in detention for the whole process," explained Peter Cosandey, another former Zurich prosecutor.

"The chances that he will be exempted from prison are rather small," he added, because Polanski is not a Swiss citizen or a permanent resident and had already jumped bail years ago in the United States.

Polanski's victim, Samantha Geimer, who long ago publicly identified herself, has joined in Polanski's bid for dismissal. She testified at the time that Polanski forced himself on her — which he acknowledged in his guilty plea — but has said she forgives him and wants the ordeal over.

Polanski's lawyers recently filed for dismissal, based on misconduct allegations in a 2008 HBO documentary that suggested behind-the-scenes manipulations by the now-deceased judge and a prosecutor not assigned to the case.

The judge handling the request acknowledged "substantial misconduct" in the original case, but dismissed the defense filing earlier this year because Polanski was a fugitive; it's now in the hands of an appeals court.

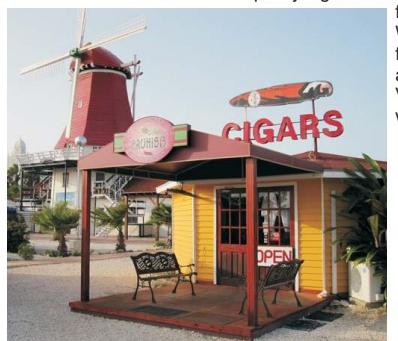
Klapper reported from Geneva. Associated Press writers David Germain and Anthony McCartney in Los Angeles, and Angela Doland in Paris and Monika Scislowska in Warsaw, Poland, also contributed to this story. □

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Angels determined to exceed early playoff exits

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Scioscia stalked the clubhouse with a soaked T-shirt and a bottle of champagne, looking for somebody to hug. Los Angeles Angels owner Arte Moreno was an easy target.

The Angels' two bosses reveled in another division title and another playoff berth Monday night, celebrating another year of success for a franchise with regular postseason reservations—and a few reservations about how they'll perform in October.

"It never gets tired, and it never gets old," said Scioscia, whose Angels are back in the playoffs for the sixth time in eight years after Monday night's 11-0 win over Texas. The celebration was tinged with the bittersweet memory of Nick Adenhart(notes), the young pitcher killed in a car accident in April. The raucous party also masked a discomfiting on-field fact: Although the Angels have become postseason stalwarts

in Scioscia's decade running their dugout, winning five of the last six AL West titles, they've had precious little success once they reach the playoffs ever since their only championship. The Angels have six regular-season games left to rest up for the playoffs, and Scioscia plans to give time off to all of his regulars before opening the playoffs in a week. That's still a much shorter frame than last season, when Los Angeles clinched the AL West on Sept. 10—with 17 games to play—on the way to a major league-best 100 wins. That 2 1/2 -week stretch with little motivation was seen as a factor in Los Angeles' listless effort in its division series loss to Boston. Getting pushed by the Rangers down the stretch could benefit the Angels in October.

Yet the Angels have stumbled down the stretch: Monday's win improved their September record to 14-12, which includes the club's only four-game losing streak of the

season. Los Angeles dropped

two of three both to Boston and the New York Yankees in September, along with losing two of three to Detroit in late August.

But after a productive, versatile offense carried the Angels through most of the summer, their starting rotation finally rounded into outstanding form late in the year when the offense

finally faltered. Capped by Ervin Santana's(notes) seven-hit shutout of Texas in the clincher, the Angels' starters have produced a 2.60 ERA in their last 27 outings, throwing at least six innings in 22 of those games.

Los Angeles has every reason to believe it can contend with Boston, New York and the NL's best. The Angels' lineup

is dotted with .300 hitters and power producers, with veteran Vladimir Guerrero(notes) alongside breakout youngster Kendry Morales(notes). Longtime leadoff man Chone Figgins(notes) is having another strong year, while former Yankees slugger Bobby Abreu(notes) has been an ideal fit since arriving shortly before the season. □



Ken Green says loss of leg won't keep him off tour



DANBURY, Conn. (AP)—Ken Green has overcome depression, financial troubles and a bad back. He doesn't plan on letting the loss of a leg keep him off the Champions Tour.

The pro golfer had his lower right leg amputated after an accident in June that killed his brother and girlfriend. He said Monday that he hopes to be back on the tour by April. "It's probably not realistic, July might be better," Green told The Associated Press. "But I don't know, I've never done this before. The question is, can I get back to the highest level? Our level and just golf are two different worlds." The five-time winner on the PGA Tour was in his hometown, where pros including Fred Funk, Curtis Strange, Mark Calcavecchia and Phil Blackmar played at the Ridgewood Country Club to help raise money to pay some of his medical and personal expenses. They expect the event will bring in about \$150,000, and plan a similar fundraiser in Florida in November. Green was with his brother Billy, his girlfriend Jeannie Hodgin, and his dog Nip on June 8, when the RV his brother was driving blew a tire and went off Interstate 20 near Hickory, Miss., hitting a tree. Ken Green was the only survivor.

Green says he doesn't remember the accident, just

waking up in the hospital. He said the doctors told him they might be able to save his leg, but that it would never function properly.

"I told them to cut it off, because that was my only chance," he said. "I wouldn't have been able to swing properly with that leg the way it was."

Green's sister, Shelley White, has been with him since the accident. She said he has been focused on golf almost since the moment he woke up. Green, who is being fitted with a special prosthetic that includes an ankle that will pivot, had hoped to be able to play a few holes on Monday, but said the pain in his leg would not allow it.

"He has no patience," White said. "He wants everything to happen at once."

Green said this isn't the toughest thing he's ever been through. After gaining a reputation as one of the most outspoken golfers on the PGA tour, he went through a bout with depression in the 1990s, which combined with a back injury almost cost him his golf career. He lost his Tour card in 2000, and said he made no money between 2005 and 2008, the year he turned 50 and became eligible for the Champions Tour.

He was 54th on the money list with \$123,906 in 11 appearances at the time of the accident. □

Cowboys' D leads the way to 21-7 win over Panthers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Leading, but not by much, Tony Romo(notes) and the Dallas Cowboys were desperately in need of a big play.

Jake Delhomme(notes) helped them make several. Terence Newman(notes) returned an interception 27 yards for a lead-stretching touchdown with 5:07 left, then rookie linebacker Victor Butler(notes) got two sacks and forced a fumble on the next series, sending Dallas to a 21-7 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Monday night.

Considering the Cowboys were coming off a last-second loss in the opener of their \$1.15 billion stadium, a crowd of 90,588 was especially tense until the defense put the game away. The biggest sigh of relief likely came from team owner Jerry Jones.

"It certainly does feel good," Jones said. "The way it went so early, it just felt like maybe we ought to check this thing out for Grim Reapers living in the back someplace."

Dallas (2-1) trailed 7-0 at halftime and was booed by fans. Although the defense was playing well and running backs Felix Jones(notes) and Tashard Choice(notes) were easing the load on Romo, the quarterback was being so careful to avoid the mistakes that doomed the Cowboys the previous week that the offense struggled to turn long drives into points. When Romo threw a pair of incompletions from the 1-yard line midway through the fourth quarter, Dallas was up by only six points. Then Newman stepped in front of a pass to Steve Smith, darted toward the right corner of the end zone and dived in. Butler capped the night with his pair of sacks and the turnover, giving the Cowboys three of each after not having any of either over the first two weeks.



"Everybody on the outside was pressing the panic button, but not us," linebacker Bradie James(notes) said. "We knew we had a bunch of ball left to play. There was still a lot of time to improve."

The Panthers sure hope so. After going 12-4 and winning their division, they're 0-3 and headed into a bye week. This is their worst start since 0-7 in 1998 and Delhomme has seven interceptions, seven sacks and two fumbles.

"We have lots of football left," coach John Fox said.

"We're not even a quarter through the season. We've

had three-loss skids before. We have to stick together." Smith insisted Delhomme wasn't to blame for the game-breaking mistake. Fox said a slant was called and Smith said he changed the route.

"I put Jake in a bad situation," Smith said. "The bottom line is that I (hurt) Jake."

Delhomme was 22 of 33 for 220 yards, but here are the only numbers that mattered: Carolina's six second-half drives ended with four punts, an interception and a fumble.

The effort showed what Cowboys coach-defensive

coordinator Wade Phillips thought his unit was capable of doing. They showed they could stop the pass in the opener, then showed they could stop the run in the second game. This time, they put it all together, with Mike Jenkins(notes) coming up with a first-half interception and Jay Ratliff(notes) getting the season's first sack. Their only blemish was a 90-yard drive just before halftime that put the Panthers up 7-0. Even with that, Carolina had only 271 yards and 15 first downs. The Panthers were 1 of 8 on third downs. □

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Más estudiantes Venezuela en huelga hambre por presos políticos

CARACAS (Reuters) - Más de un centenar de estudiantes venezolanos protestaban el martes con una huelga de hambre en varias ciudades del país en apoyo a quienes consideran "presos políticos", para quienes piden a la OEA verificar su situación.

El grupo más numeroso, más de 50 jóvenes, yace en catres frente a la sede de la Organización de Estados Americanos(OEA)en Caracas vestidos con ropa ligera, medias y algunos con tapabocas. Al menos siete estudiantes han sido trasladados a centros de salud por dificultades médicas. La protesta estudiantil comenzó el jueves pasado con 16 alumnos del núcleo de la Universidad de Oriente (UDO) en el estado Monagas y desde entonces se han sumado otros compañeros.

Los jóvenes piden que la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos de la OEA se traslade al país para verificar la situación de las víctimas de una "persecución política" contra opositores.

La noche del lunes, el emblemático estudiante Julio Rivas se sumó a la manifestación tras ser liberado de la peligrosa cárcel de Yare donde estaba recluido mientras se le investiga por rebelión civil y supuestas agresiones a un funcionario cuando una marcha intentaba traspasar una barrera policial.

"Estaremos en huelga de hambre hasta que la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos venga al país", dijo el joven quien fue recibido con algarabía la noche del lunes por sus compañeros que vieron su liberación como el primer triunfo de la presión política que ejercen contra el Gobierno.

Rivas, de 22 años de edad, era uno del medio centenar de los considerados presos políticos, junto a militares, comisarios de policía, empresarios y funcionarios que la oposición considera que han sido apresados por adversar la "revolución socialista" del presidente Hugo Chávez. □



Un estudiante reposa en una cama mientras participa de una huelga de hambre colectiva en Caracas, 28 sep 2009. Un estudiante reposa en una cama mientras participa de una huelga de hambre colectiva en Caracas, 28 sep 2009 REUTERS/Edwin Montilva

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